(c) the steps proposed to be taken to realise the money from defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) No deviation has been made by Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund in investing the money as per the guidelines regarding investments issued by the Government.

The Provident Fund Trusts, which have been exempted from all or any of the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 under Section 17 of the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 & Paras 27 & 27A of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 are required to follow the terms & conditions of exemption as laid down in the Act & Scheme. These, *inter-alia*, provide that (i) "the employer shall make good any other loss that may be caused to the Provident Fund due to theft, burglary, defalcation, misappropriation or any other reason" (ii) "Failure to make investments as per direction of the Government shall make the Board of Trustees separately and jointly liable to surcharge as may be imposed by the Central Provident Fund Commissisoner or his representative".

Thus, there is no loss suffered by the employees since the Act & Scheme already lay down the steps that need to be taken to safeguard the interest of the employees of such exempted establishment.

Phasing out of Corporate Tax

1382. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce and subsequently phase out Corporate Tax;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this move; and

(c) what would be its impact on the resource mobilisation effort of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.